

717. 575
Doo1

OTTUZYUW BUENAA4479 2361844
IMMEDIATE
O 231631Z SEP 81

DECLASS

-- SAGAS: WELL, YOU HAVE TO ASK YOUR PEOPLE. I HAVE NEVER
ASKED THEM THIS. IT IS NOT MY JOB. IT IS YOUR JOB."

4. TEXT OF DEPARTMENT PRESS GUIDANCE:

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE 6643
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 2782
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE 4746

INFO AMEMBASSY JEDDA IMMEDIATE 0002 AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 0746
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE 1032 AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 0400
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE 0033 UMISSION USMATO IMMEDIATE 0616
UMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1230
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 0000
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 0376

Q: IS IT TRUE, AS PRESIDENT SADAT SAID IN THE NBC INTERVIEW, THAT THE US IS BUYING SOVIET-MADE ARMS FROM EGYPT AND SHIPPING THEM TO THE AFGHAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS?

A: -- AS IS OUR USUAL PRACTICE, WE DO NOT COMMENT ON SUCH REPORTS.

-- I WIGHT NOTE, AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY, THAT THE BULK OF THE ARMS IN AFGHAN NATIONALIST HANDS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FROM INDIGENOUS SOURCES. THESE INCLUDE ARMS CAPTURED FROM THE SOVIETS, FROM DEFECTING OR COOPERATING AFGHAN ARMY PERSONNEL, AND EXISTING SUPPLIES IN LOCAL HANDS. END TEXT. CLARK
BT

E.O. 12066 N/A
TAGS: SOPN, US, AF, PW, ES

SU T: SADAT INTERVIEW ON ARMS TO AFGHAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS

3. NBC NEWS LEAD STORY SEPT. 22 WAS SADAT STATEMENT THAT US IS PURCHASING SOVIET-MADE EQUIPMENT FROM EGYPT FOR SHIPMENT TO AFGHAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS. NBC STORY SAID THAT THE COVERT OPERATION "HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR TWENTY-ONE MONTHS AND THAT THE ARMS ARE EITHER ORIGINALS OR REPLICAS OF SOVIET WEAPONS (INCLUDING SHOULDER-FIRED ANTI-TANK AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT ROCKETS, AS WELL AS GUNS AND AMMUNITION). AN EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL, NOT SADAT, SAID THE ARMS ARE FIRST FLOWN TO KARACHI AND SO, PRESUMABLY OVERLAND, FROM THERE TO AFGHANISTAN.

2. STORY WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD ISSUED A "TERSE COMMENT" (SEE PARA 4) BUT THAT PRESIDENT SABAT'S ACCOUNT HAD BEEN INDIRECTLY CONFIRMED BY FORMER CARTER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND THAT PENTAGON SOURCES ALSO CONFIRMED THE STORY. PRESIDENT CARTER HAD REFUSED ALL COMMENT.

3. RELEVANT PORTIONS OF INTERVIEW FOLLOW:

--BAGAT: "LET ME REVEAL THIS SECRET. THE FIRST MOMENT THE

AFWAKIM INCIDENT TOOK PLACE. THE UNITED STATES CONTACTED ME HERE, AND THE TRANSPORT OF ARMS STARTED FROM CAIRO HERE ON US PLANES.

-- PAUL MILLER: ARE YOU STILL ASSISTING YOUR MOSLEM BROTHERS IN AFGHANISTAN THROUGH SHIPMENTS OF ARMS?

-- SADA: FOR SURE, AND I SHALL CONTINUE TO DO THIS UNTIL THE AFGHANIS GET RID OF THE SOVIETS OUT OF THEIR COUNTRY.

— MILLER: ARE THEY AMERICAN ARMS THAT YOU ARE SHIPPING, OR ARE THEY EGYPTIAN ARMS?

-- SADAT: NO, SOVIET ARMS. I DIDN'T ASK THE US TO SEND ME
PLANES TO TAKE THE AMMUNITIONS. NO, THEY TOLD ME THE
AMERICAN PLANES HAVE ALREADY ACTIVATED. WHAT WE NEEDED.
SO AND SO AND SO, REQUIREMENTS OF RUSSIAN AMMUNITIONS. I
OPENED MY STORES TO THEM, BUT YOU WERE VERY GENEROUS.
YOU HAVE PAID ALSO FOR THE AMMUNITIONS.

-- MILLER: NOW DID THEY FLY, NOW DID THEY GET INTO AFGHANISTAN?

```

ACTION                                     (U.S.7.0)
INFO
NIDS(1) SAGA(1) JS:NMCC(1) J6(2)
RDJTF:LO(1) SECDEF:(1) SECDEF(7) USDP(16)
ASD:NMAL(2) NMIC(1) R3S-38(1) SWS(1) AAT-X(1) BIO(1)
VP-A2 FRO(1) DE(1) DB-18(1) DB-16(1) SUP-2C(2)
DB-38(2) DB-2C(2) DB-4A(1) DB-6(1) DIX(1)
+PTC WASH DC . . . .

```

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY FI DATE 2-13-87
 (X) ~~CLASS~~ () DECLASSIFY
 () ~~REF~~ () DECLASSIFY IN DATE
 () ~~EXT~~ () ~~Ext~~ ~~Ext~~ ~~Ext~~
 NO, EO or RA citations

 () ~~CLASS~~ as _____
 () DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C. CASE

AAT-X(1) BIO(1)
00000000
00000000

00000000

MCN=81266/03358 TOR=81266/1844Z TAD=81266/1846Z CDSN=MI1814

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 1 OF 1
231633Z SEP 81